

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

### February, 2002

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.*

#### Residents of Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District

##### **Treatment Admissions:**

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.5% (1,820) reside in the Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (345) of Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 73.9% of admissions from the Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District were male and 26.1% were female.
- Over 56.9% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 84.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.4% were black non-Latino, 6.8% were Latino, 0.8% were Asians, and 4.0% were other racial categories.
- 64.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 14.5% were married, and 13.9% reported not to be married now.
- 28.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 44.7% completed high school, and 26.9% had more than high school education.
- 40.5% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 16.3% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.5% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

##### **Substances Used in Past Year:**

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

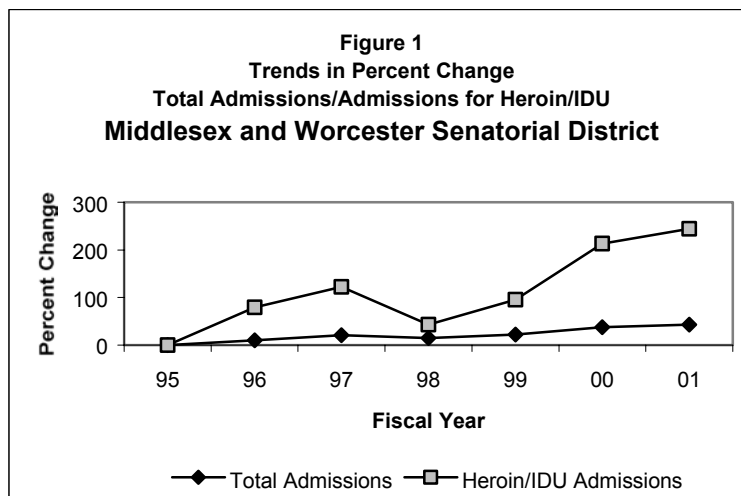
<b>Table 1</b> <b>Annual Admissions by Substance Used</b> <b>FY 1995 – FY 2001</b>							
<b>Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District</b>							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '95</b>	1,274	1,119	366	279	191	179	128
<b>FY '96</b>	1,399	1,186	483	351	262	316	235
<b>FY '97</b>	1,543	1,274	502	380	255	384	298
<b>FY '98</b>	1,460	1,221	466	264	141	258	181
<b>FY '99</b>	1,557	1,302	485	318	182	334	267

<b>FY '00</b>	1,752	1,411	564	405	236	558	403
<b>FY '01</b>	1,820	1,394	548	400	239	604	452

- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, residents of Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District reported a leveling off in crack use, while alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin use rose by 25%, 50%, 43%, and 237%, respectively.

### Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving the increases in HIV<sup>1</sup>.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 43% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased 244 %.

### Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Middlesex and Worcester Senatorial District.

<b>Table 2</b>					
<b>Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001</b>					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	51.6%	30.6%	8.8%	2.7%	1.7%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug use in your Senatorial District was lower than the State, alcohol and marijuana as a primary drug was higher within your District.

<sup>1</sup> The Schneider Institute of Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000